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LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ZAMBIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On 17 February 1999, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia, S. K. Walubita, issued a press statement on the problems between Angola and Zambia. I request that the press statement and the annexed memorandum, which I attach, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter L. KASANDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press statement issued by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Zambia on 17 February 1999

On 27 January 1999, I issued a Press Release stating that on 14 January 1999, I had received a letter from the former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Angola, Honourable Venancio de Moura, informing me that his Government had "credible information that confirms a large involvement of the Zambian authorities in the logistic and military support sent to Dr. Jonas Savimbi inside Angola, to perpetuate war and the suffering of the Angolan people".

Upon receipt of this letter, the Zambian Government in accordance with normal diplomatic practice, requested the Angolan Government to provide the alleged credible information so that it could be thoroughly investigated. This information was officially received on 4 February 1999 in the form of a Memorandum dated 15 January 1999 and is hereby released for general information. Since then, the Angolan Government has released various versions of the Memorandum through its Missions abroad.

When the first round of allegations were made, a Task Force under the Inter-State Defence and Security Committee carried out verification missions during the course of 1997. In addition to this, Joint Angola/Zambia Inspection Team verification missions were conducted in March 1998 to areas allegedly being used to transport arms to UNITA. In both cases, there was no evidence of the alleged activities found.

The Government of Zambia also eagerly welcomed the initiative by the United Nations to send a verification mission in April 1998 led by Ambassador Njuguna Mahugu, of Kenya, who was then Chairman of the United Nations Security Council Committee on Sanctions on UNITA.

In May 1998, the Organization of African Unity also sent a verification mission led by Ambassador Daniel Antonio, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs. Both the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity cleared Zambia of these allegations.

On a number of occasions and at different fora, the Zambian Government and the Foreign Affairs Committee of Parliament have unreservedly condemned UNITA for undermining the peace process under the Lusaka Protocol.

At the multilateral level, in September 1998, the Zambian Government was party to a decision taken at the SADC Heads of State Summit in Mauritius, to declare Dr. Jonas Savimbi a war criminal.

In addition to this, at the OAU Central Organ Summit held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 17 December 1998 the Zambian Government was party against the resumption of hostilities by UNITA and appealed for compliance in fulfilling the Lusaka Protocol.

The Government of Zambia would like to state that it has complied with the United Nations Security Council resolutions against UNITA and has communicated this information to the United Nations.

It is also a matter of record that Zambia has played a pivotal role in the liberation of Southern Africa, including that of Angola. It is, therefore, inconceivable that Zambia would be associated with any activities which would be detrimental to the peace and stability of Angola and the subregion as a whole.

I would like to remind my fellow Zambians and the international community that the war in Angola had been going on long before the MMD came into power in November 1991. The MMD Government, however, invested 14 months of its energy and resources to facilitate the peace process that culminated into the signing of the Lusaka Protocol on 20 November 1994.

In fact, our position throughout the negotiation of the Lusaka Protocol was to encourage both parties to reach a political settlement. Zambia also contributed troops and civilians to the United Nations peacekeeping operations in Angola. Some of these Zambians have made the ultimate sacrifice by paying with their own blood and lives for peace in Angola.

The Zambian Government finds it a strange coincidence that the allegations are intensifying when our mediation efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have reached an advanced stage.

The Government of Zambia has, meanwhile, sent letters of complaint to the Chairman of the Southern African Development Community, His Excellency Mr. Nelson Mandela, the Chairman of the SADC organ on Politics, Defence and Security, His Excellency Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, formally inviting them to send missions to Zambia to establish the veracity of these allegations.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming our commitment to promoting good-neighbourliness with Angola and our desire to see Angola attain durable peace so that the country and the subregion can develop in a stable political environment.

Enclosure

Memorandum of the Government of Angola of 15 January 1999

The Republic of Angola is once more confronted by a war situation led by the military forces of Jonas Savimbi, who persists in the attempt to take power by force.

Despite the various political and diplomatic efforts that the Angolan Government has already made with the international community in order to stop the provision of political and material support to the militarist wing of Jonas Savimbi, especially the innumerable sanctions approved by the United Nations Security Council, such efforts have been compromised by some African countries. Thus, it underlines Zambian support, which is substantiated by the following:

1. Direct support of the Zambian Government, prominently led by the Vice-President of the Republic through the intelligence services of that country.

2. The involvement of Zambian enterprises and some individual personalities in the sale and purchase of lethal materials and foodstuffs for the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) forces of Jonas Savimbi such as:

(a) The Zambezi Lodge motel in the north-western province of Zambia, approximately 90 kilometres from the Angolan border, with the aim of facilitating the use of aircraft with great transport capacity, in aid of which a landing strip was renovated and restrictive access measures were taken. This enterprise is owned by Benjamin Yoran Mwila, former Defence Minister of Zambia, a relative of General Chata of the UNITA military forces;

(b) Enock Kavindele, former Minister of Commerce and Industry of Zambia, personal friend to Jonas Savimbi;

(c) Timi Green, personal friend to General Bock of the UNITA military forces;

(d) Miro Goncalves, a businessman of Portuguese nationality;

(e) Tinsit Allain, a businessman of Algerian nationality;

(f) Mr. Paul and Mr. Mulyata the first being a mechanic by profession, and resident in Solwezi, whose means of transport are hired weekly by UNITA in Cazombo;

(g) Paul Joseph Mannemplavan, in alliance with Mr. Mulyata, owns a grinding mill in Cazombo, which supplies mealic meal to the UNITA military forces;

(h) The South African company, Metex International, uses Zambian airports and its airspace to supply material to the UNITA military forces with Government consent;

(i) Chani Interprises Ltd. transports arms and ammunition for the UNITA military forces.

3. In Zambia, UNITA has increased its facilities for logistical supplies and uses the following:

(a) Mpolo airport near Lusaka;

(b) Mansa airport in Luapula Province close to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(c) Kasama airport in the northern province;

(d) Mfuwe airport in the Luangwa South National Park;

(e) Storage of large quantities of fuel in Ndola.

4. UNITA and its suppliers frequently use the following routes:

(a) Zambia/Zambezi - Chingi in the Zambian side and Karipande on the Angolan side;

(b) Via Nguvu - route used with more frequency by businessmen, for instance in the case of Mrs. Like Harriet Nakazwe of Lusaka, who supplies large quantities of fuel;

(c) Nyachikay - particularly used by people from Cangamba, Lumbala, N'guimbo UNITA denominated military base number 29 and adjacent areas. This route is utilized especially to transport fish, which are sold in Zambia;

(d) Lutembwe Cassessi - with the same frequency and objective already mentioned above;

(e) Chavuma/Karipande, which links to the Cambinda road in Angola where ivory, fish, game meat and honey are transported in exchange for clothes;

(f) Calombo/Chavuma, known as Camissambo Chicongolo. In this area the same produce is transported in a manner similar to that mentioned above;

(g) The route in the district of Kabompo known as Dicolonga, which links the UNITA base in Macondo (Angola) and the Zambian village of Dicolonga and the vast area of Chief Nhaculenga.

5. To ensure the normal operation of supply system, Angelo Dembo, a UNITA official has been placed in Zambia with Sambian Government consent.

6. From 5 to 11 September 1998, a UNITA delegation, comprised of four (4) Generals, was in Zambia and had contact with the leadership of the ruling party,

Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD), under the protection of intelligence services of that country.

7. In July 1998, about one hundred (100) trucks loaded with supplies left Kitwe for UNITA bases and penetrated Angolan territory through the Nangweshi-Caungamaxi route on the banks of the Kubango River.

8. In Cazombo, aircraft of the Hercules C-130 type, registration number 9J AFU, and Boeing 707 and 737, in Air Zambia colours from the Republic of Zambia, offloaded arms, ammunition, several projectiles and green military uniforms. The goods were then transported in two Toyota vehicles to the Lunhameje west base in Cazombo.

9. Five (5) vehicles of the Nbezi type, yellow in colour, with registration numbers 0832-22, AA897-4, 675-944, 091576 and A874-99, belonging to a Portuguese trader known as Mr. Lopes Baptista, resident in Zambezi, Zambia, has been transporting through the Zambia/Angola border warlike materials, with ammunition, bombshells, military uniforms and fuel to the forces of Jonas Savimbi.